February 1, 2025

Rosalynn Carter

Personal Life

- **Early Life**: Eleanor Rosalynn Smith was born on August 18, 1927, in Plains, Georgia. She was the eldest of four children and grew up in a close-knit community. Her father passed away when she was 13, which led her to take on additional responsibilities at a young age.

- **Marriage and Family**: Rosalynn married Jimmy Carter on July 7, 1946. They had four children: Jack, James, Donnel, and Amy. The Carters shared a deep bond and were known for their long-lasting marriage and partnership.

- **Later Years**: Rosalynn Carter passed away on November 19, 2023, at the age of 96.

Professional Life

- **First Lady of Georgia**: Rosalynn served as the First Lady of Georgia from 1971 to 1975, where she focused on mental health issues and other social causes.

- **First Lady of the United States**: As the First Lady from 1977 to 1981, she was an active and influential partner to President Jimmy Carter. She attended Cabinet meetings, represented the President in meetings with domestic and foreign leaders, and was deeply involved in policy discussions.

- **Advocacy for Mental Health**: Rosalynn was a leading advocate for mental health, chairing a national commission and testifying before Congress on the issue. She continued her advocacy work after leaving the White House.

- **Carter Center**: After their time in the White House, Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter founded the Carter Center, focusing on global health, human rights, and conflict resolution. She also contributed to Habitat for Humanity and other charitable organizations.

- **Awards and Honors**: Rosalynn received numerous awards for her public service, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999.

Rosalynn Carter's life was marked by her dedication to public service, her advocacy for mental health, and her unwavering support for her husband throughout his political career.